

Epi Update for Friday, May 31, 2019
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Benefits of stool testing**
- **Tuberculosis screening, testing and treatment of healthcare personnel**
- **Epi Quiz**
- **In the news: The current global measles outbreak, mapped**
- **In the news: Mumps - is it the forgotten disease?**
- **In the news: Man bit by bat hiding in his iPad case**
- **Infographic: Healthy camping: norovirus prevention at youth camps**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Benefits of stool testing

IDPH normally receives increased reports of gastrointestinal illnesses during the summer months. Educating patients on proper food handling and storage, safe use of recreational water and hand washing are all great ways to reduce gastrointestinal illnesses.

One of the ways IDPH identifies gastrointestinal illness outbreaks is through public health surveillance. As laboratory has technology expanded, so has the medical provider's role in outbreak investigation. IDPH relies on stool specimens collected by medical providers to efficiently monitor disease trends, identify disease clusters, and investigate outbreaks. Positive stool specimens collected by medical providers are sent to the State Hygienic Laboratory for further testing and genetic analysis. Information obtained from this additional testing allows IDPH to efficiently identify disease outbreaks and limit further risk to the public.

IDPH encourages providers to collect stool specimens on patients with symptoms consistent with gastrointestinal illness.

Tuberculosis screening, testing and treatment of healthcare personnel

On May 17, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA) released [updated recommendations for TB screening, testing, and treatment of health care personnel](#). These recommendations do not replace or override the Department of Inspection and Appeals [481 IAC Chapter 59 Tuberculosis Screening](#). IAC Chapter 59 and the updated CDC/NTCA recommendations are generally consistent and in agreement.

Any questions related to TB screening, testing, and treatment should be directed to the Iowa TB Control Program at 515-281-7504.

Epi Quiz

Answers available at the bottom of the Epi Update.

1. An outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis in England was associated with eating food from a Chinese restaurant. At least 38 of 52 interviewed patrons were ill, with a mean incubation period of 30 hours. Illness was associated with three separate food items: chicken fried rice, special fried rice, and egg fried rice. Why these three items?

2. Wilber Wright, airplane inventor, died at age 45 in 1912 of a somewhat common infection of the time, thought possibly due to contaminated shellfish he had consumed at a banquet. What was the infection?

- A) Typhoid fever (*S. enterica* Typhi)
- B) *Salmonella*
- C) Cholera
- D) Typhus
- E) Viral hepatitis

Quiz questions compliments of Richard Danila, Minnesota Department of Health.

In the news: The current global measles outbreak, mapped

qz.com/1626838/the-current-global-measles-outbreak-mapped/

In the news: Mumps - is it the forgotten disease?

www.bbc.com/news/health-48397341

In the news: Man bit by bat hiding in his iPad case

www.wmur.com/article/south-hampton-man-bit-by-bat-hiding-in-his-ipad-case/27617219

Infographic: Healthy camping: norovirus prevention at youth camps

HEALTHY CAMPING: NOROVIRUS PREVENTION AT YOUTH CAMPS

Camp HEALTHY PREVENT NOROVIRUS

LEARN HOW TO PREVENT NOROVIRUS AT YOUTH CAMPS

Norovirus is very contagious and causes vomiting and diarrhea. People of all ages can get infected and sick with norovirus. You can get norovirus from:

- Having direct contact with an infected person, such as shaking hands
- Sharing food or eating utensils with an infected person
- Consuming contaminated food or water
- Touching contaminated surfaces then putting your unwashed hands in your mouth

BASICS ABOUT NOROVIRUS

Clean and disinfect the entire area immediately and thoroughly after someone vomits or has diarrhea.

Practice proper hand washing and encourage the same among campers

PREVENT NOROVIRUS IMMEDIATE Clean-up

PREVENT NOROVIRUS WASH YOUR HANDS

ISOLATE SICK CAMPERS

Isolate sick campers and prevent them from sharing bathrooms and using cafeteria

NO SWIMMING WHILE SICK

Prevent campers from swimming while sick and for at least 1 week after symptoms have resolved

www.cdc.gov/norovirus

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/norovirus/infographics/healthy-camping.html.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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Epi Quiz answers:

1. Egg fried rice was a component of the other two dishes, so all three dishes contained eggs; the egg fried rice was left out at room temperature for 7 hours and re-heated when ordered.
2. A, Typhoid fever (*S. enterica* Typhi)